

CLAIMS

1. A gas-treatment device (2, 2') for use with a tracheostomy tube (1), the device including a housing (20, 20') adapted for connection to the tube, a gas passage (23) in the housing and a gas-treatment unit (30, 30') mounted with the housing, characterised in that the gas-treatment unit (30, 30') is displaceable from a first position in which gas can flow from the tube (1) through the gas-treatment unit (30, 30') via the gas passage (23), to a second position in which the gas passage (23) is substantially blocked preventing flow of gas out of the machine end (15) of the tracheostomy tube (1).
2. A gas-treatment device according to Claim 1, characterised in that the gas-treatment unit (30, 30') is displaceable by rotation.
3. A gas-treatment device according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the gas-treatment unit (30) remains in the first or second position unless manually displaced.
4. A gas-treatment device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the gas-treatment unit (30) includes a projection (35) accessible at an end of the housing (20) by which the gas-treatment unit (30) can be displaced.
5. A gas-treatment device according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the device includes a resilient member (131) arranged to displace the gas-treatment unit (30') to the first position when released.
6. A gas-treatment device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the gas-treatment unit (30, 30') is cylindrical.
7. A gas-treatment device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the gas-treatment unit (30, 30') includes an HME element (32, 33).

8. A gas-treatment device according to Claims 6 and 7, characterised in that the gas-treatment unit (30, 30') includes an HME element (32 and 33) at opposite ends.
9. A gas-treatment device according to Claim 7 or 8, characterised in that the or each HME element (32, 33) is of a treated paper.
10. A tracheostomy tube assembly including a tracheostomy tube (1) and a gas-treatment device (2, 2') according to any one of the preceding claims connected at the machine end (15) of the tube.